



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
Division of Epidemiology & Health Planning
Immunization Program

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Date: February 3, 2012

To: All Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) Providers

From: Laura Harrod, MS Ed. *Robert L. Brandon, MD, MPH for*
Kentucky Vaccine Program Coordinator *Laura Harrod*

Subject: Underinsured Children and VFC Vaccine

In the past, **underinsured** children (i.e., children with private health insurance whose insurance did not cover some or all vaccines) in Kentucky could get vaccines provided by the Kentucky Vaccine Program at any VFC enrolled office. Those vaccines were purchased with various federal or state funds but not with VFC funds, as **underinsured** children were not ever eligible to receive VFC funded vaccines in your office. In the last few years the cost and number of vaccines provided has increased dramatically as funds allocated for immunizations from a major funding source (i.e. the Tobacco or KIDS NOW money) have decreased. Those funds are no longer available, and the Kentucky Vaccine Program can no longer supply any vaccine for your office to immunize **underinsured** children.

As an alternative, **underinsured** children have always been able to receive VFC funded immunizations at Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) or at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). In the last several months, the Kentucky Department for Public Health has also been working with FQHCs to delegate authority for immunizing **underinsured** children with VFC vaccines to local health departments. While it would have been advantageous to have this delegation for local primary care providers, present national policy did not permit that option.

All local health departments now have this delegated authority from a FQHC. Local Health Departments either have or will soon notify local primary care providers about this delegated authority. If your office has not received this notification already, your staff should contact your local health department.

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From this date forward, please refer all underinsured children needing immunizations to a local RHC, FQHC, or local health department. Your office is not able to use VFC funded vaccine for immunizing underinsured children.

These changes are effective today. Please make your staff aware of the changes. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact me at 502-564-4478 ext 3855 or by e-mail at Laura.Harrod@ky.gov.

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Attachment

Eligibility for Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) Funded Vaccines

1. The VFC vaccines supplied by the Kentucky Vaccine Program can only be given in your office to:

Children aged 18 years and younger (prior to the 19th birthday) who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Are Medicaid eligible or Medicaid-enrolled or have coverage from Passport or one of the Managed Care Organizations authorized by the Kentucky Medicaid Program,
- Have no health insurance or are uninsured,
- Are American Indian or Alaskan Native

2. Additionally, the Kentucky Vaccine Program purchases vaccines with state funds to cover:

- The Hepatitis B birth dose in the hospital, and
- Medicaid Program KCHIP3 children. The state of Kentucky has a contract with Medicaid to pay for these children's vaccines. The Medicaid program reimburses providers for vaccine administration only. Providers should use State supplied vaccine to prevent incurring cost for the vaccine.

3. Underinsured can now receive VFC funded vaccines only at a RHC, a FQHC, or a local health department that has a delegated authority agreement from a FQHC to immunize underinsured children with VFC funded vaccines.

Underinsured children are children aged 18 years and younger (prior to the 19th birthday) who:

- Have private health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines,
- Have private insurance that covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or
- Have private insurance that caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured

4. VFC vaccines should not be given to any children who are beneficiaries of TRICARE, the military health care program. TRICARE covers age-appropriate doses of vaccines, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, at no cost to TRICARE beneficiaries. TRICARE beneficiaries may receive covered vaccines from a TRICARE-authorized provider or from an in-network provider. If enrolled in a Prime option, TRICARE beneficiaries must have a referral and authorization to avoid paying point-of-service fees for vaccines administered by a non-network provider.

5. IF A PATIENT HAS PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND YOUR OFFICE STAFF DOES NOT KNOW IF ALL VACCINES ARE COVERED, YOU MUST:

- Either call the insurance company to confirm vaccine coverage

OR

- Use privately purchased vaccines (VFC funded vaccines **MUST NOT** be used.)

Attachment